

# Why do I oppose fascism? Because they will eventually c...

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Five or so years ago, when both my sons were studying GCSE history I took them on a holiday that included a number of sites that were of potential historical interest. So, we went to Ypres, Passchendaele, Köln and Munich. When in Munich we went to the BMW museum and read about its use of slave labour during World War 2. And then we went to Dachau.

Nothing quite prepares you for the walk through the suburban streets that lead to the gates of Dachau. Those streets were there in 1933 when the camp opened. They still are now. They are the streets through which slave labourers walked from the camp to their places of work.

It's also true that nothing quite prepares you for Dachau. How can it?

My sons and I, as I recall it, went into a reveried silence as we began to read the information boards in the admin block of what was the camp.

The history began in 1933. This was the first concentration camp.

After only a few minutes my elder son came up to me and said "They'd have put you in here, Dad."

The camp's first inmates were political prisoners, trade unionists, clergy and others who politically opposed the Nazis. Social democrats were amongst their number. Jews, and many others, came later. First, the Nazis cleared out their political opponents.

Was my son right? Who knows? But by the time he made the comment he was very familiar with what I did for a living, what I believed, and who I worked with. And that was his opinion.

Why do I oppose fascism? Because they will eventually come for you. That's why.